

Born in Hartland, Vermont, on April 27, 1864, he came in 1879 to San Diego and there made his home for the remainder of his life. While exploring the West Indies he died in Haiti on Aug. 24, 1929.—W. L. JEPSON.

OPEN LETTERS

On *Geraea viscida* (Gray) Blake.

I am sending a package of *Geraea viscida*, including two roots. These plants were collected near Jacumba, California, at about 2800 feet altitude. This *Geraea* grows in hard red clay soil and has a deep tap root. The remains of last year's stems show it to be at least a biennial, but judging from the size and depth of the root I would take it to be a perennial. The way the heads, after anthesis, become abruptly reflexed is worthy of note.—J. B. FEUDGE, May 28, 1927.

Vaccinium ovatum in the Santa Cruz Mountains.

On October 13, 1929 two forms of *Vaccinium* were observed near the Big Basin in the Santa Cruz Mountains. The common kind, *Vaccinium ovatum*, has a perfectly globose fruit without bloom. Please note that the other (var. *saporosum*) has a very pronounced pear-shaped fruit with bloom. The leaves of the pear-shaped one, too, are strikingly darker in color.—H. A. DUTTON, Los Altos.

Rediscovery of *Stipa Stillmanii* Boland. in Placer County

When collecting plants on the Sugar Pine Range, about twelve miles northeast of Forest Hill along the road between the Sugar Pine Ranger Station and Forbes Cattle Camp, I noticed a rather tall grass with plume-like top. It was a new grass to me, so I put several stalks in my press to work with later, not suspecting I had found anything rare. This location is on the road east of Iowa Hill, which is just across the American River Canyon from Colfax and only a few miles in an air line.

After I found that my specimen was *Stipa Stillmanii*, I looked for it around Colfax and eastward, but I have never seen it off the Forest Hill Divide and only in fairly dense shade. Since finding the one clump near the Sugar Pine Station, the ranger has found one other clump. Last week, also, we located another small area on the east slope of the Red Star Ridge, in what is known as "French Meadows", in T 15 N, R 14 E. I am sending some pictures of the last station, showing several of the plants. There are about twelve individual plants here. Jepson's Manual cites Blue Canyon as country in which it is found, but so far I have not seen it there.—LELAND SEYMOUR SMITH, Aug. 1, 1929.

Picea Breweriana Wats.

I wish to report that, on a recent trip, I saw the Brewer Spruce on the north slope of Little Grayback, Josephine County, Oregon. This point is much further north than the point where, you will recall, we located the trees on the pass above the Oscar Beer Ranch on the Expedition of 1908. On Little Grayback was found a tree that I consider a perfect specimen of *Picea Breweriana*. It was not growing on the cliffs, but at the edge of the regular forest in deep soil. With its veil of "weepers", I thought it was the most beautiful tree I have ever had the pleasure of seeing in our forests. The Little Grayback is the dividing mountain between Deer Creek and Little Grayback Creek, and constitutes the most northerly spur of the Siskiyou range.—JAMES DAVIS, Oct. 7, 1929.

New stations for trees in Oregon.

In August, 1917, I found *Cupressus Macnabiana* well established on Sterr Peak, 5809 ft., and on one or two adjacent peaks in Josephine County, Oregon, and have a specimen of *Chamaecyparis Nootkatisensis* from Whiskey Peak, Josephine County, Oregon, three miles from the California line, so that you see we may yet find it south of the line and thus add one more arborescent species to your California list.

I have found *Populus tremuloides Vancouveriana* very scattering but well established in the Willamette Valley. It had previously passed for the species which does not occur west of the Cascade Mountains. Most of the variety has now been exterminated by the settlers in clearing the land.—MARTIN W. GORMAN, Portland, Ore., Oct. 19, 1919.

THE DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY AT STANFORD UNIVERSITY.

Botany at Stanford University is represented by a group of eight men, five of whom are technically the Department of Botany, and three Professors or Assistant Professors of Biology. These are respectively Dr. Douglas H. Campbell, now Emeritus but actively working in the laboratory, Dr. L. R. Abrams, Curator of the Dudley Herbarium and Professor of Systematic Botany, Dr. Gilbert M. Smith, morphologist, algologist, and anatomist, Associate Professor James I. W. McMurphy, plant pathologist, Professor Geo. J. Peirce, physiologist; and Dr. L. B. Becking, cellular physiologist, Dr. L. L. Burlingame, geneticist, and Dr. A. G. Vestal, ecologist. To this list should be added the names of three Lecturers in Botany, Mr. Samuel B. Parish,¹ systematist and collector of the Parish Herbarium, Mr. William F. Wight, plant breeder, of the U. S. Department of Agri-

¹ Deceased June 5, 1928.